

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:
generating a policy digest for a cached policy at a client, the policy digest
identifying at least one assertion the client is complying with; and
including the policy digest in a request by the client to access a resource.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the policy digest includes
generating a hash of the cached policy.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the policy digest includes
encoding a bit vector identifying selected assertions from the cached policy.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the policy digest includes
reading an assertion from the policy, assigning a bit value to the assertion, and
writing the bit value to a bit vector.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the policy digest includes
generating a hash of the cached policy if the cached policy is normalized.

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6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
incrementing a counter each time the cached policy is used; and
removing the cached policy from a cache at the client when the counter
exceeds a limit value.

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7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
incrementing a counter for the cached policy when a fault is received at the
client in response to using the cached policy; and
removing the cached policy from a cache at the client when the counter
exceeds a limit value.

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8. The method of claim 1, further comprising logging a diagnostic
event when a fault is received at the client to identify a system problem.

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9. A method comprising:
- extracting at a host a policy digest identifying a cached policy, the policy digest included in a request to access a resource; and
- denying access to the resource if the policy digest identifies an invalid policy.
10. The method of claim 9, further comprising issuing a fault for the client if the policy digest identifies an invalid policy.
11. The method of claim 9, further comprising decoding the policy digest.
12. The method of claim 9, further comprising decoding a bit vector of the cached policy.
13. The method of claim 9, further comprising reading an assertion from the policy digest.
14. The method of claim 9, further comprising reading a row hash of the cached policy.

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15. A system comprising:
a policy digest identifying at least one cached policy; and
a messaging module denying access to a resource if the policy digest identifies an invalid policy for the resource.
16. The system of claim 15, wherein the messaging module extracts the policy digest from a message requesting access to the resource.
17. The system of claim 15, wherein the messaging module decodes the policy digest.
18. The system of claim 15, wherein the policy digest is a bit vector of a cached policy.
19. The system of claim 15, wherein the policy digest is a row hash of a normalized policy.
20. The system of claim 15, wherein the policy digest identifies at least one selected assertion.

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21. A system comprising:

a policy digest for a cached policy at a client, the policy digest identifying at least one assertion the client is complying with; and

a messaging module including the policy digest in a request by the client to access a resource.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the messaging module encodes the policy digest.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the policy digest is a bit vector of a cached policy.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein the policy digest is a row hash of a normalized policy.

25. The system of claim 21, wherein the policy digest identifies at least one assertion selected by the client.

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2 26. A computer program product encoding a computer program for
3 executing on a computer system a computer process, the computer process
4 comprising:

5 generating a policy digest for a cached policy at a client, the policy digest
6 identifying at least one assertion the client is complying with; and
7 including the policy digest in a request by the client to access a resource.
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10 27. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer
11 process further comprises generating a hash of the cached policy.
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13 28. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer
14 process further comprises encoding a bit vector of the cached policy.
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17 29. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer
18 process further comprises reading an assertion from the policy, assigning a bit
19 value to the assertion, and writing the bit value to a bit vector.
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22 30. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer
23 process further comprises generating a row hash of the cached policy if the cached
24 policy is normalized.
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3 31. The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the computer
4 process further comprises:

5 incrementing a counter each time the cached policy is used; and
6 removing the cached policy from a cache at the client when the counter
7 exceeds a limit value.

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9 32. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer
10 process further comprises:

11 incrementing a counter for the cached policy when a fault is received at the
12 client in response to using the cached policy; and

13 removing the cached policy from a cache at the client when the counter
14 exceeds a limit value.

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17 33. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer
18 process further comprises triggering a diagnostic event when a fault is received at
19 the client.
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1 34. A computer program product encoding a computer program for
2 executing on a computer system a computer process, the computer process
3 comprising:
4 extracting at a host a policy digest identifying a cached policy, the policy
5 digest included in a request to access a resource; and
6 denying access to the resource if the policy digest identifies an invalid
7 policy.
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10 35. The computer program product of claim 34 wherein the computer
11 process further comprises decoding the policy digest.
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13 36. The computer program product of claim 34 wherein the computer
14 process further comprises decoding a bit vector of the cached policy.
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17 37. The computer program product of claim 34 wherein the computer
18 process further comprises reading an assertion from the policy digest.
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20 38. The computer program product of claim 34 wherein the computer
21 process further comprises reading a row hash of the cached policy if the cached
22 policy is normalized.
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